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EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

D. BRYSON DELAVAN.

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THE SOCIAL HISTORY

OF THE

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS,

HELD IN COPENHAGEN,

AUGUST, 1884.

BY

D. BRYSON DELAVAN, M.D.,

NEW YORK.

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"Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; but I thank you."

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.
Act II, Sc. 2.

I.

At all gatherings in which work of an intellectual nature is relieved by social entertainment there is, besides the regularly reported proceedings, an inner history which is apt to remain unwritten; and this either because it is hardly worthy of the writing, or else, unfortunately, because it embraces too much which had better be forgotten.

The unqualified success which attended all of the features of the Eighth International Medical Congress, recently held in Copenhagen, and particularly those which relate to the manifold expressions of hospitality, both public and private, extended to the foreign members of the Congress by their genial and generous hosts, renders it a brilliant exception to the rule, and is in itself an ample excuse for the attempt here made to present a short account of the social history of the great meeting.

In preparing this brief sketch, the writer has been impelled by the force of a double obligation:

first, that of sharing the delightful recollections of the occasion with his friends; and, secondly, the desire to indicate, in some slight degree, his appreciation of the distinguished courtesies which were literally showered upon their guests by the King, the physicians, and the people of Denmark.

In dealing with the subject, it will be hard to avoid the imputation of undue enthusiasm.

Far from exaggerating, however, no description can do justice to the kindness, the liberality, and the enjoyable character of the attentions received, an assertion which will be best proven by the simple relation of them.

II.

The Congress really began on Saturday evening, August 9th, when an informal reception was held in the large music-pavilion of the Tivoli, or pleasure-garden of Copenhagen, for the purpose of introducing such members as had already arrived in the city to their hosts and to one another. Several hundred were present, conversation was general, and the object sought was very satisfactorily attained.

The grand opening of the Congress, held at one o'clock on the day following, Sunday, in the Hall of the Palace of Industry, was largely attended, nearly all of the delegates having arrived in the city. In every respect it was a great occasion, graced as it was, on the one hand, by the presence of a royal family, distinguished alike for the admirable personal characteristics of its members and for the wide influence which it is now exerting upon the political history of Europe, including as it does their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark, the Empress

of Russia, the King of Greece, and their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales and the Crown Prince of Denmark, and, on the other hand, by an assemblage of brilliant, famous, and useful representatives of a noble science such as has rarely been brought together.

Looking around upon this remarkable audience, and noting the commanding figures, strong countenances, and glittering decorations of those who composed it, the conviction arose that in few other departments of learning could such a company be gathered.

Speeches of welcome were made by Professor Panum, and by the secretary of the Congress, Dr. Lange, and the meeting was also addressed by M. Pasteur, Sir James Paget, and Professor Virchow. The appearance upon the platform of M. Pasteur was the signal for an outburst of applause strong, spontaneous, and long continued, an ovation which would have well repaid any man for years of hard work, and which indicated at once that, in the popular esteem, its subject was the head and front of the occasion. His speech, as was Sir James Paget's, was a model of gracefulness and brevity. In listening to the finished oratory of the latter speaker, and in observing the ease, elegance, and

aptness which distinguish every sentence he utters, one would suppose him to be an accomplished statesman rather than a student of medical science. The address of Professor Virchow also was delivered in the clear, forcible, manly fashion which seems to characterize him, and which indicates at once the source of his influence in the political, as well as in the scientific affairs of Germany.

The selection of these three men to represent the nationalities to which they respectively belonged was singularly judicious, for none will deny that each one of them stands *facile princeps* among the greatest thinkers and the most distinguished philanthropists of his own land.

The exercises of the morning were enlivened by the excellent singing, by a fine male chorus, of several original and remarkably well-written songs of welcome.

On Sunday evening Professor Panum gave a dinner at the Hôtel d'Angleterre to about three hundred distinguished guests. Here, as on other occasions, Pasteur, Paget, Virchow, and Gull were the honored guests. Eloquent speeches were made by all of these gentlemen, Pasteur responding to the toast, "The King of Denmark"; Paget, "To Denmark"; and Virchow, to "The hospitality of the

Danes." A striking incident happened during the dinner, when the Turkish Ambassador, gorgeous in the full costume of his office, approached Pasteur, and, taking his hand in both his own, pressed it reverently to his lips, thus, as the representative of political power, paying to the representative of scientific eminence, the highest tribute at his command.

Of those not invited to Professor Panum's dinner, a large number were entertained at the residences of other physicians of the city, the hospitalities being so divided that few, if any, of the visitors were left out, and the companies so arranged that those of the same sections were brought pleasantly together.

III.

The sections were regularly organized on Monday morning, and the grand event of the Congress, scientifically speaking, took place on Monday afternoon, when, at the great general meeting, Pasteur delivered an address based upon his recent investigations of hydrophobia. In this the progress and results of four years of incessant labor were graphically related, in simple language and in wonderfully lucid style, in the space of one single hour. The paper was read with much distinctness, and every word, from the beginning to the end, was listened to with most earnest attention, until, when the magnificent results attained were announced, the audience expressed itself in enthusiastic applause. This hour alone was well worth the long journey to Copenhagen, and can not fail to be long remembered by all present.

Monday evening was devoted mainly to dinner-parties, given by the officers of the various sections

to their respective members. The Laryngological Section, with which our lot had been cast, was delightfully entertained; its members with their lady friends, numbering in all about one hundred and twenty, being taken upon a beautiful little steamer up the Sound to Skodsborg, about an hour's sail from the city, where, nestled against the side of a beautiful green bluff, was a handsome summer hotel, a favorite resort of the more wealthy residents of Copenhagen. Here a capital dinner was served, with the distinguished and much-beloved President of the Laryngological and Otological Sections, Professor Wilhelm Meyer, as host.

To an American or an Englishman, accustomed to the prim conventionality and the staid dignity with which, at our fashionable dinners, we are apt to be smothered and repressed, the genial, jovial spirit, and the infinite *bonhomie* which pervade these Northern banquets, are at once refreshing and novel.

The one in question was a notable example of its kind, and as such merits more than a passing notice. Every one talked vigorously with those in his neighborhood. Speaking was begun before the soup had been removed, not by special invitation, but, apparently, whenever and as often as the spirit moved,

one loquacious guest occupying the floor no less than four times before the close of the evening. Unlike ours, the speeches were not so much intended to entertain the company with amusing anecdote, or to enliven it with wit, as to please it with compliment and exalt it with praise. English, French, Danish, and German were freely intermingled, the President addressing the company in all four, and with that wonderful linguistic fluency for which his countrymen are famous.

Toasts, both general and special, were unlimited. The custom observed in drinking the special ones was peculiar. A guest, wishing to honor with distinguished civility some other member of the company, would arm himself with a glass of champagne, and, leaving his place at the table, march around to where his friend happened to be sitting. Then, with great earnestness and gravity, the two would go through the formality of touching glasses, bowing, and saying "Skaal!" and, after raising the glass to the lips, would finish the ceremony with another profound bow. As nearly everybody said "Skaal!" to almost every one else, it may readily be imagined that with such free interchange of friendly sentiment all soon felt entirely at home, and the process of becoming acquainted was rapidly

and agreeably advanced. Dancing was indulged in after dinner in a beautiful music-hall situated upon the top of a high bluff not far from the hotel, and overlooking the waters of the Sound, glistening like silver in the light of the full moon. Finally, the party was escorted back to the steamer, to the music of the military band and in the light of a fine display of fireworks. The sail home by moonlight was by no means the least attractive part of a beautiful and thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

IV.

Tuesday was occupied with the regular affairs of the Congress, and with private lunch- and dinner-parties; but on Wednesday all business was adjourned, and the whole party, numbering, ladies included, about sixteen hundred, were magnificently entertained throughout the whole day by an excursion to Elsinore and Frederiksborg, arranged by the King. At 10 A. M. five large and comfortable steamers, gayly decorated with flags, left the principal quay and steamed in single file up the waters of the Sound. The day was perfect, both as to atmosphere and temperature, and the sea calm; and in a little over two hours the party was safely landed at the ancient town of Helsingör, or Elsinore. Here the whole town was waiting to receive us, and the streets through which we passed were lined on both sides with rows of flags of all nations, and spanned by beautifully decorated arches of evergreen. Elsinore is famous for its splendid old castle, the

Kronborg, which, rugged and picturesque in architecture, with a main tower of extraordinary outline, and surrounded by extensive ramparts and broad moats, commands the narrowest part of the Sound, here about two miles wide. A short walk brought the party to the castle, where an hour was quickly passed in studying its various points of interest. The view from Kronborg is particularly fine, for the shores of Sweden are in plain sight for many miles, both to the north and to the south, and their outline, although somewhat low, is undulating and graceful. Almost opposite to Kronborg, near the Swedish coast, is the Island of Hven, once the residence of the celebrated Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. Indeed, the neighborhood is classic, for Shakespeare refers to Elsinore as the home of Hamlet, the Dane; and the "Flag Battery," a broad bastion overlooking the Sound, and upon which the national flag of Denmark is planted, is said to be "the platform of the castle of Elsinore" upon which the ghost of the murdered king appeared.

Kronborg is also the scene of other interesting legends connected with Denmark. Thus, the tutelary genius of the country, Holger Danske, who is familiar to the readers of Andersen's fables, is

said to repose beneath the castle, ready to arise when Denmark is in danger.

With the relation of these and many other legends, as well as with statements of greater historical accuracy, our genial hosts added greatly to the attractiveness of the place, as we wandered over its halls and towers, and through its intricate system of under-ground passage-ways, secret tunnels, in some places about thirty feet wide and fourteen high, which burrow their way under the bastions all around the castle, connecting one part with another, and, it is said, even crossing beneath the moat and extending into the town itself. A superb luncheon was served in the castle, and, when the party had been thoroughly refreshed and several large groups photographed, and when some of us had visited the cairn of stones said to mark the location of Hamlet's grave—from which, by the way, a particularly fine view of the castle may be obtained —and had inspected the corner of the moat in which Ophelia is reputed to have drowned herself, the party took the railway-train for another celebrated Danish palace, Frederiksborg.

Here again the little town was decorated for our reception; flags were everywhere flying, and the windows and streets were filled with interested

spectators, plain people, in the main, but comfortable, well-conditioned, and happy-looking, to whom the extremes of wealth and poverty seemed alike unknown.

A drive of about a mile brought us to the palace, an imposing building, situated upon three small islands in the midst of a lovely lake, the whole presenting a picture of extraordinary beauty. The palace was originally designed and erected in 1602 by the versatile and talented King Christian IV, the most famous of the old Danish sovereigns. In the course of time it became, through the continued efforts of succeeding kings and people, the richest repository of artistic and historical treasures in the kingdom, and one of the most beautifully decorated palaces in the world. Unfortunately, the interior, with all of its valuable contents, was destroyed by fire about twenty years ago. The loss was most severe, and, of course, irreparable. Recently the building has been restored and superbly decorated in the "late rococo" style. The grand hall and the chapel are particularly beautiful. The latter has been skillfully restored in as nearly as possible exact imitation of the original decoration, which consisted of elaborate and graceful carvings upon a background of creamy-white, profusely relieved

with gold. The general effect of the room is wonderfully rich, and at the same time light. It contains, besides many fine paintings, an organ of unusual purity and richness of tone, and a pulpit of unrivaled grace and beauty. The round of the palace having been made, the party again drove through the narrow but clean and well-paved streets of the quaint old town to the depot, and were soon landed in Copenhagen, after a day so replete from its beginning to its end with interest and enjoyment, that it seemed impossible that so many remarkable incidents and striking scenes could be crowded into its few short hours.

V.

The grand dinner and *fête* given on Thursday by the Municipality of Copenhagen to the members of the Congress was by far the most extraordinary and unique feature of the whole meeting, and, in brilliancy, magnitude, and originality, far surpassed any entertainment of the kind on record. To describe it with justice would be next to impossible, so that we can hardly hope to give more than an outline of the festivities of that memorable evening.

The cards of invitation announced that the guests would first be entertained at a dinner, and later by a *fête* at the Tivoli. Each card bore the name of the recipient, the number of the table at which he was to sit, and a plan of the general arrangement of the tables.

Promptly at the appointed time, long lines of carriages filled the principal avenues of approach. The "Dannebrog" was seen suspended from every

flag-staff in the city, while the vessels in the harbor were with one accord covered with flying clouds of color. Upon reaching the building in which the dinner was to be held, it was found to be an extensive marquee, constructed for the occasion, and located close to the edge of the quay, at the beginning of the famous "Lange Linie," in one of the most attractive parts of the city, and where it overlooked a beautiful view of the river and harbor. Upon entering the main end of the building, the guest first found himself in a large lobby, upon each side of which were long, double rows of hooks, each row numbered to correspond with a table, and each hook also numbered. By this means a place was secured for the hat, etc., of each guest, without the slightest delay or confusion. Passing through the lobby, the guest suddenly found himself in a magnificent, spacious, and airy hall, the ceiling and sides of which were tapestried with a dark cream-colored stuff, relieved by trimmings of buff. Upon a double row of slender columns, which ran the length of the room, were hung huge clusters of Dannebrogs, beautifully grouped and arranged. The Danish flag, by the way, consists, as every one knows, of a white cross upon a red field, and for purposes of decoration is exceedingly effective. More

than forty tables, each capable of seating about thirty-five, were arranged in rows at each side of the room, excepting in the middle, where, at one side, was a large raised platform, upon which, at three tables, were stationed the hosts of the occasion and the more distinguished guests.

Behind the principal table of all, at which the Regent of the University presided, there appeared upon the wall a huge coat-of-arms of the city, done in flowers, and more than twenty feet square. Around it were grouped the flags of all the nations represented at the Congress. On the opposite side of the room was a raised desk, from which responses to toasts were delivered. Most remarkable of all was the flood of light which filled the place. On searching for its source, one saw, besides the large skylights in the roof, that one half of one side, and the whole of the other, toward the water, were made of glass!

Fortunately, we, with a pleasant party of friends, were stationed at the second table from the center, and, having arrived early, were allowed to select the best seats from which to see and to hear.

Again, as upon the occasion of the opening of the Congress, the guests appeared in full court costume, and, as we stood watching the company assem-

ble, the same lavish display of richly jeweled orders was observed. There were some, notably Esmarch and Volkmann, famous men indeed, whose bosoms fairly blazed, covered as they were with glittering ornaments. There were others, again, no less distinguished, for whom, as with Pasteur, one decoration was enough ; while, conspicuous among all for the absence of all external aristocratic insignia, stood one, well known to every American reader, whose fine countenance, manly dignity, and genial grace were in themselves an all-sufficient stamp of greatness.

Promptly at the appointed time the company was seated, and, after the military band had played the stirring Danish national hymn, the dinner was formally opened by a short speech from the Regent. Then the large doors at the farther end of the hall were thrown back, and a procession of one hundred and fifty waiters, each bearing a huge porcelain tureen of steaming soup, marched solemnly down the hall, the head of the column going the whole length of the room, and finally halting at the last tables. This manœuvre, as well as the soup, was, each in its own way, excellent. Course after course was thus served, each of its kind appetizing, delicious, and in some instances characteristic. The wines, as at all

the Danish entertainments, were varied in kind, in quantity abundant, and of the very best quality. Delightful music was furnished by the band, and also by a chorus of male voices, foremost of which was a superb baritone, the singing by which of certain beautiful Danish Folke-Sange to an accompaniment by the other voices was worthy of the highest admiration.

During the dinner the object of the huge window toward the river-side was made evident, for, one after another, a succession of beautiful steamers, decorated to the utmost with flags, and with their decks covered with people, sailed slowly by, saluting us as they passed by dipping their colors, and by a great waving of handkerchiefs from those on board.

A few short speeches were made — Pasteur, Trélát, Paget, Virchow, Crudeli, and Panum, together with the celebrated antiquarian, Professor Warsaa, being the orators. Thus two hours quickly passed, and at a few minutes after seven, in the early twilight of a beautiful summer evening, began the most wonderful part of the whole performance. The whole company was ushered out of the dining-pavilion and into the open air, where, moored one after another to the quay, were five large steamers,

Upon these all quickly embarked. Then began such an ovation as no man present had ever seen before: a sight which might have recalled to Copenhagen two other such occasions; the first, when it welcomed the victorious Christian IV; and, again, years later, when the city rose as one man to greet the return of its greatest genius, Thorwaldsen, convoyed from Rome in triumph, with all his works of art about him, in a royal man-of-war.

Our course was up the same water-way for about a mile and a quarter. Everywhere, from the beginning to the end of the sail, everywhere on both sides of the river, quays, windows and roofs, wharves, bridges, and shipping swarmed with crowds of people, who cheered, shouted, and hurrahed to the utmost, and who made the places in which they stood white with the waving of a sea of handkerchiefs. Everywhere was seen the Danish flag. Every vessel, from the largest ship to the smallest yacht and fishing-boat, was in holiday attire. All along the shore, fireworks were displayed. The amateur boating-clubs turned out in full force, and the quiet waters were filled with wherries, gigs, and barges, many of the latter six- and eight-oared, all manned by capital oarsmen, who, in their pretty boating costumes, rowed alongside our steamers,

saluting each one with their oars as they passed, the coxswain of each burning beautiful colored lights as long as they remained in sight. Slowly we made our way through ever-continuing crowds of sincere, earnest, and enthusiastic citizens, until our own excitement grew intense and the oldest and most distinguished cheered and saluted with the rest, and every one felt that for once, at least, medicine had received from *the people* that heartfelt and honorable recognition which, at their hand, it so richly deserves. Thus, at last, the approach to the Tivoli, or summer-garden, was reached, and the company, forming in line four abreast, marched for nearly a quarter of a mile through a dense crowd, which fell back as the column drew near, and cheered it to the echo as it passed. As to the Danish cheer, it is like our own, but with an addition which greatly improves it. It is given, "Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! 'Rah! 'Rah! 'Rah!" and, like the Danes themselves, it is strong, hearty, and stirring.

There is no such Tivoli as Copenhagen's in all Scandinavia, nor, indeed, in all Europe. On this occasion it outdid itself. Its beautiful pavilions glowed with colored lights until they looked like splendid set pieces of fireworks. Here and there tall poplar-trees and wide-spreading lindens were

hung with Chinese lanterns to their very tops. The little lake was surrounded with semicircles of colored lights, while pyramids of the same floated like radiant swans upon its bosom, and its graceful bridges were transformed into glowing ways of colored fire. Even the very fern-banks and flower-beds were illuminated, by methods as ingenious as they were beautiful. The display of fireworks was superb.

The bands played varied selections of music, both national, classic, and popular. The pantomime and theatre were at their best. The Hanlons tossed from their trapèzes their wildest and airiest flights. The Rutsch-Bane roared its welcome as its cars undulated back and forth. The circular boats rose and fell upon their winding way. The revolving balloons circled through the air with their fluttering flags and giddy freight. Forty thousand people, great and small, swarmed everywhere, and Tivoli was ablaze.

VI.

A reception was given to the members of the Congress on Friday evening, August 15th, by his Majesty King Christian IX, at the Royal Palace of Christiansborg. The attendance was large, all the leading members of the Congress being present. The company was received by the whole of the Royal family then in Denmark, namely: their Majesties the King and Queen, the King and Queen of Greece, their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess, and Prince Valdemar, youngest son of the King. The grand apartments of State were thrown open for the occasion. The Royal party were exceedingly affable and easy in their reception of the guests presented to them, and conversed steadily and intelligently with all who lingered to chat with them. The impression which they made was particularly pleasant in every respect. The jewels of the Queen of Greece and of the Crown Princess are worthy of mention, the former consist-

ing of the usual tiara, necklace, corsage, etc., the necklace being a band composed of five strings of beautiful pearls, while the other ornaments were made up of emeralds, surrounded by large diamonds. The emeralds, especially those set in the corsage, were of extraordinary size and purity. The jewels of the Crown Princess are diamonds, magnificently brilliant, and said to be of great value.

At ten o'clock supper was announced, and the company was ushered into another suite of apartments, each one of which was filled with tables covered with every luxury. Conspicuous upon them were the royal pheasants, each decorated with his own plumage and surrounded on all sides by game in infinite variety, and by all the other rare and attractive dishes which Scandinavia could furnish herself or procure from elsewhere, and French skill perfect. Wandering from room to room, one at last found himself in the grand banquet-hall, a superb room with lofty ceiling and of ample size, decorated in white and gold, and flanked on each side by a row of beautiful columns. In a gallery at one end was stationed the Royal Military Band, while below, at the same end of the room, the royal family continued to receive its guests. Everywhere were famous men, brilliant lights, splendid paint-

ings, princely saloons, the hum of many voices, and the strains of the music. Everywhere, too, were eating and drinking, merry-making, and feasting. Of one thing there can be no question: there is, somewhere in Denmark, an inexhaustible fountain, not of water, but of champagne. It flowed steadily throughout the whole of the Congress, and reached high-water mark on the occasion of this reception. When the entertainment was at its height the King stepped forward, and, raising his glass, offered as a toast the health of the "Guests of Denmark, the Foreign Members of the Congress." An eloquent response was made by Sir William Gull.

With the memory of this most interesting occasion still fresh in our minds, the news of the destruction by fire of Christiansborg is particularly distressing, and has called forth expressions of the warmest sympathy from all.

VII.

At the General Meeting, on Saturday, an interesting paper was read by Professor Panum, and at its conclusion, upon the recommendation of the General Committee, the Congress adopted, by an overwhelming vote and amid much applause, the invitation to hold its next meeting in Washington, in 1887.

The formal programme having thus been completed, Assistant Surgeon-General Billings, of the United States Army ; Professor Carl J. Rosander, of Stockholm ; Sir Risdon Bennett, of London ; and Professor Virchow, of Berlin, in brief speeches presented, on behalf of the foreign members, their earnest thanks for the cordial hospitality which had been extended to them, and their hearty congratulations upon the eminently successful termination of the Congress.

To quote the words of an English correspondent, "the speech of Dr. Billings was particularly

happy. He acknowledged the compliment which the Congress had conferred upon the medical profession of America in selecting Washington as the next place of meeting, and said that his countrymen would do their best to secure that the future Congress should effect as much as possible for the advancement and co-ordination of medical science.

"He promised, besides, that those who crossed the Atlantic to attend it should have an opportunity of seeing something of American scenery, American institutions, and American hospitality. He also expressed, in the name of the American physicians in Copenhagen, their admiration at the manner in which the Congress there had been managed, and their gratitude for the great courtesy, and almost boundless hospitality, which had been shown to them by the Danes. There was always danger on such occasions that Science would be drowned in her own popularity, and that the hospitalities and courtesies would overcome the scientific work of the Congress. Great as had been the hospitalities of our friends in the present instance, this had not happened. A great number of excellent papers had been read, and important discussions held, in the different sections, the result of which would soon be laid before the medical world.

"Dr. Billings's closing remarks may be regarded as a strictly accurate estimate of the Congress."

Finally, Professor Panum made a short address, thanking all, and especially those who had come from a distance, for their attendance, and wishing them, one and all, a safe and pleasant journey home. He then formally declared the Congress closed.

The Congress was actually ended on Saturday evening by a ball and *fête*, given to the members and their lady friends at the National, a handsome theatre opposite the Tivoli. Although a number had already left the city, the attendance was large and the occasion very enjoyable. A fine supper was served, beautiful selections of Danish music, capitally sung by a glee-club of gentlemen, were alternated with the music of the band, and dancing was continued until a late hour. Everybody waltzed, young and old, including the elegant and distinguished Professor Esmarch; and thus the Eighth International Medical Congress was brought to a happy and most successful termination.

VIII.

The actual success of the Congress was, of course, the result of the concordant working of a number of important factors. Of these, none played a more prominent part than the share taken in it by the King. Not only were the entertainments given by him conducted upon such a scale of royal magnificence that they will be remembered as marked events in the lives of those who were so fortunate as to enjoy them, but, more important still, the personal interest shown in the scientific success of the meeting by his Majesty, and the lively encouragement extended by him to its managers, gave to it a moral support, the strength of which can hardly be estimated, and, setting a key-note which was promptly taken up by his people, brought forth a rich and harmonious result.

The intelligent appreciation of the occasion shown by the King, and, indeed, by the whole of

the royal family, was as creditable to themselves as it was complimentary to the science which they thus honored. Upon the efforts of the medical profession of Denmark, and also of Norway and of Sweden, it would be impossible to bestow sufficient praise. No one who was not actually present could appreciate the untiring energy and the enthusiastic devotion displayed by the distinguished President of the Congress, Professor Panum, by the officers of the various sections, and by all who were in any way responsible for the success of the meeting and the happiness of its guests.

By no means the least delightful feature of the Congress was the attention shown by the ladies of Copenhagen to the ladies who, in many instances, accompanied the visiting members.

A regular committee of entertainment had been appointed, and, as soon as it was known that a lady from abroad had reached the city, she was immediately called upon, and every arrangement made for her comfort and pleasure. At as many as possible of the large entertainments, the ladies were invited, and they attended them in large numbers, thus adding greatly to their brilliancy and success. There were certain times, however, such as during the daily business sessions, and on the occasion of the

municipal dinner, when they were necessarily left to themselves. Then it was that the charming thoughtfulness and attention of our hosts were best displayed, for lunch-parties and dinners, lovely drives and delightful excursions, were proffered upon them in such lavish and unceasing profusion that it seemed as if the list of courtesies would never come to an end. Moreover, many of the leading citizens, although they had closed their houses for the summer and had gone to the country, returned to town and re-opened them, for the entertainment of the visitors sent to them by the Central Committee; while upon all sides, by the people at large, evidences of the liveliest interest were everywhere displayed.

IX.

In concluding the imperfect account which has here been attempted, and in reviewing the events of this memorable week, there are some things which should not pass unnoticed.

Although by no means a large and wealthy state, such were the liberality, thoughtfulness, and ingenuity of our entertainers, that they made their Congress by far the most enjoyable one on record. Again, although, for political reasons, even such an assemblage, drawn from states diverse in character, and, in some instances, unfortunately, bearing none too amicable relations toward each other, could not be brought together without great danger of serious controversies, such were the dignity, fairness, and good temper of those in charge, that all passed off smoothly ; the spirit of the meeting was, on the whole, a united one ; and, finally, every one seemed to depart satisfied and happy. All honor, then, to our brave, courteous, and generous

Scandinavian friends; and when they come to visit us in Washington, three years hence, let us show them that we have not forgotten their genial kindness and their splendid hospitality.

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